

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set out below.

1.-24. (Canceled)

25. **(Previously Added)** A conjugated 4-pregnen-21-hydroxy or 1,4-pregnadiene-21-hydroxy steroid, wherein the conjugant group pends from the steroid 21 hydroxyl group and comprises a neurotrophin or a neurotrophin receptor-binding fragment thereof.

26. **(Previously Added)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, having a 21-carbamate linkage to the conjugant group.

27. **(Previously Added)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, having a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to the conjugant group.

28. **(Previously Added)** The conjugated steroid of any one of claims 25 - 27, wherein the neurotrophin or neurotrophin fragment pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.

29. **(Previously Added)** The conjugated steroid of claim 26, wherein the neurotrophin or neurotrophin fragment pends covalently through a thiolated lysine residue epsilon amino group.

30. **(Previously Added)** The conjugated steroid of claim 28, wherein the steroid is a corticosteroid.

31. **(Previously Added)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the corticosteroid is selected from the group consisting of: cortisone, betamethasone, dexamethasone, triamcinolone acetonide, and fluocinolone acetonide.

32. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30 ~~31~~, wherein the steroid is triamcinolone acetonide.

33. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30 ~~31~~, wherein the steroid is fluocinolone acetonide.

34. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 28, wherein the neurotrophin is nerve growth factor (NGF), brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), neurotrophin-3 (NT-3), neurotrophin-4 (NT-4), or neurotrophin-6 (NT-6) ~~selected from the group consisting of: NGF, BDNF, NT-3, NT-4, and NT-6.~~

35. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 34, wherein the neurotrophin is nerve growth factor (NGF) NGF.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 35, wherein the conjugant group comprises ~~an NGF~~ a nerve growth factor (NGF) fragment capable of binding to trkA receptors and being internalized therewith.

37. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 34, wherein the neurotrophin is brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) BDNF.

38. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 37, wherein the conjugant group comprises a ~~BDNF~~ brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) fragment that is capable of binding to trkB receptors and being internalized therewith.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, in which triamcinolone acetonide is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF) NGF, or to a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.

40. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, in which fluocinolone acetone is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF) NGF or a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.

41. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the steroid is betamethasone.

42. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the steroid is dexamethasone.

43. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, in which betamethasone is conjugated by a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF) or a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.

44. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, in which dexamethasone is conjugated by a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF) or a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.
